

Amendments to the Specification:

On Page 1, please replace the paragraph that was previously added above line 1 in the November 1, 2006 Preliminary Amendment with the following rewritten paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[01] Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 10 2004 008 283.9 filed February 18, 2004. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/DE2005/000276 filed February 18, 2005. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.

On Page 1, please add the following paragraphs or subtitles after the paragraph that was added above line 1, and before the paragraph that begins with "[01] The invention relates to":

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

On Page 1, please replace the paragraph that begins with "[01] The invention relates to" with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~{01}~~ [01.1] The invention relates to a fastening tape for a

hygiene item, said hygiene item and a method for producing a fastening tape for a hygiene item. In particular, the invention relates to a fastening tape for a baby diaper or for an incontinency diaper, said baby diaper or incontinency diaper and a method for producing such diapers.

On Page 1, please add the following paragraph or subtitle after paragraph [01.1] and before paragraph [02]:

2. Description of the Prior Art

On Page 1, please replace paragraph [02] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[02] ~~When opening~~ Opening the fastening tape on a diaper to put the diaper on or take it off, ~~this regularly involves the task of gripping an end of the fastening tape at the end~~ using one's fingers and pulling the fastening tape away from the surface of the diaper ~~cooperating that cooperates~~ with the tape or away from a release tape on the surface of the diaper. ~~To this end~~ As a result, a fastening tape often has a protruding section which extends as the "free end" beyond the closing area of ~~such a~~ the tape. ~~It is proposed in EP 0 840 585 B1~~ discloses that for fastening tapes with a closing area and a protruding section it is especially favorable from a manufacturing standpoint to make a

wavy cut along the machine transport direction to sever the strips of tape during production. The wavy cut results in a tape having a wavy end with a plurality of wavy heads, with a protruding section being formed on each wavy head on the wavy end of the tape.

On Page 2, between paragraph [05] and paragraph [06], please insert the following paragraph or subtitle:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On Pages 6-7, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 (paragraph [18]) with the following rewritten paragraph:

[18] An especially inexpensive means of providing, applying and/or attaching the component for the grip area is achieved according to an especially preferred embodiment of this invention by the fact that the grip area is designed "like a film." In the present context the term "like a film" is understood to refer to a structural component, the area of which in mm² amounts to at least eight times the thickness in mm measured for this area. In the present case, such a component is then a film if it has sufficient inherent stability and is flexible. To obtain a film-like grip area, for example, a film piece may be glued or otherwise applied as a separate component to the protruding

section, ~~which is associated~~ and this gluing or other application can be accomplished with little effort. Alternatively, a directly adhering material, e.g., a hot-melt adhesive or some other thermoplastic material such as TPE may be applied directly to the diaper fastening tape to be a film on the diaper fastening tape so that in turn an independent structured component on the diaper fastening tape is designed in the manner and with the properties of a film. In the case of hot-melt adhesives in particular, however, the component may be relatively brittle so that here it is better to speak of a film-like component. A film-like material for the structurally independent component forming the separate grip area is much more favorable in particular than a mechanically reworked hook material, as provided in U.S. Pat. No. 6,210,389, for example, or more favorable than providing a few individually arranged hooks or hook spots as proposed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,624,429. Therefore, the film-like material has no hooks.

On Page 13, before the first full paragraph, paragraph [34], please insert the following paragraph or subtitle:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On Page 13, please replace the first full paragraph, which is also numbered as paragraph [34], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[34] The invention will now be explained further below on the basis of various exemplary embodiments with reference to the drawing. Functionally identical components in the drawing may have the same reference numerals.

Figure 1 shows schematically a cross section through two diaper fastening tape strips lying one above the other in the way in which they are transported and cut on a production machine,

Figure 2 shows schematically portions of the diaper fastening tape strips from Figure 1, from the viewpoint II-II of Figure 1, and a cutting line along which the diaper fastening tape strips from Figure 1 are separated in production,

Figure 3 shows schematically a top view of a diaper fastening tape strip after being separated from the opposing strip but before being cut to form the actual tape form,

Figures 4 and 5 each show two diaper fastening tapes

attached to a diaper and

Figures 6a through ~~6d~~ 6e show various exemplary embodiments of the invention in detail according to the exemplary characterization detail area IV in Figure 3. In addition to showing detail IV of Figure 1 and a first wavy-head within detail area IV, Figure 6d shows a second wavy-head that neighbors detail area IV that includes the first wavy head.

On Page 13, before paragraph [35], please insert the following paragraph or subtitle:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

On Page 13, please replace paragraph [35] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[35] The two fastening tape strips 1 and 2 in Figure 1 are joined at the ends in a machine cross-direction 3 and usually run in this form through the production machine which separates them, for example, in a wavy form (see Figure 2) along a cut 4. Figure 2 shows portions of fastening strips 1 and 2 of Figure 1, as viewed from II-II in Figure 1, along cut 4 with a wavy form. After being separated by the cut 4 in the machine cross-direction 3, the diaper fastening tape strip 1 is separated by separating

cuts 5 (shown as an example in Figure 3) to form individual diaper fastening tapes 10 which lie adjacent to one another in the machine direction 6 and can be taken from the machine.

On Page 14, please amend the first full paragraph on Page 14 as follows:

[36] The diaper fastening tapes 10 are attached to the diaper wings 7 (shown as an example in Figures 4 and 5) of the diaper 8 so that they can securely seal the diaper 8 by means of hooks 9 on a closing area 11 so that it can be reopened. To this end in these exemplary embodiments, loops corresponding to the hooks 9 are provided on a frontal tape 12 on an outside ~~13~~ 17 of the diaper.

On Page 17, between paragraphs [46] and [47] please insert the following new paragraph:

[46.1] Figure 6e shows two separate film-like grip areas 22a, 31a having different macroscopically structured surfaces formed by perforation spots 23a in grip area 22a and by ridges 33a in grip area 31a arranged on a grip edge 32a of the protruding section 14. Figure 6e also shows tape end 16a and valleys 34a between ridges 34a.